

Message Text

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ACTION L-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 FEA-01 AID-05 CEQ-01 COA-01 COME-00 EB-07

EPA-04 IO-10 NSF-02 OES-05 DOTE-00 FMC-02 CG-00

DLOS-05 /121 W

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R 180435Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1858

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USUN NY 0117

UNCLAS SINGAPORE 0253

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLOS, EWWT, IMCO, SN

SUBJECT: SINGAPORE'S FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON
PROPOSED IMS MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

REFS: (A) STATE 011235

(B) SINGAPORE 0252

1. SINGAPORE FOREIGN MINISTER RAJARATNAM AMPLIFIED AT
PRESS CONFERENCE ON HIS RETURN FROM KUALA LUMPUR PRIME MINISTER
LEE'S REPORTED STATEMENT (REFTEL B) ON THE PROPOSED IMS MINI-
STERIAL LEVEL CONFERENCE TO DISCUSS NAVIGATION, SAFETY,
AND POLLUTION IN THE STRAITS OF MALACCA. RAJARTNAM'S
REMARKS, AS REPORTED IN THE JANUARY 18 SINGAPORE
STRAITS TIMES, ARE SUMMARIED AS FOLLOWS:

2. SINGAPORE HAD EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS ON PREVIOUS
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SUGGESTIONS TO CONTROL THE STRAITS. SINGAPORE HAS "NO

RESERVATIONS AT ALL" ABOUT THE "NEW POLICY" ENUCIATED AT THE SINGAPORE-MALAYSIA SUMMIT TO DISCUSS, AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL, NAVIGATIONAL SAFETY AND ASSURED GUARANTEES OF COMPENSATION FOR LOSS AND INJURY IN CASE OF ACCIDENTS CAUSING POLLUTION AND OTHER DAMAGE. HE SAID THE NEW POLICY IS "MORE PRACTICAL, DOW TO BRASS TACKS."

3. ONCE THE IMS FOREIGN MIISTARS HAD LAID DOWN "BROAD POLICY GUIDELINES", THEIR OFFICIALS WOULD WORK OUT THE DETAILS.

4. IF USERS OF THE STRAITS HAD SOME GOOD SUGGESTIONS, THE IMS GOVERNMENTS MIGHT ACCEPT THEM. IT WAS NOT A QUESTION OF THE THREE NATIONS ARBITRARILY LAYING DOWN LAWS; THE USERS WOULD BE CONSULTED. THEIR ADVICE WOULD BE "USEFUL".

5. THE IDEA OF THE IMS MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE IS TO DEVISE SAFETY AND ANTI-POLLUTION MEASURES IN SUCH A WAY THAT THEY WOULD BE ADVANTAGEOUS TO ALL, INCLUDING THE USERS OF THE STRAITS. " I DO NOT THINK USERS WILL OBJECT TO IT. IF THEY DO DAMAGE, THEY MUST COMPENSTATE AND BEAR THE COST OF INCREASING SAFETY. THE USERS CANNOT EXPECT THE THREE LITTORAL STATES TO BEAR SUCH EXPENSES."
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